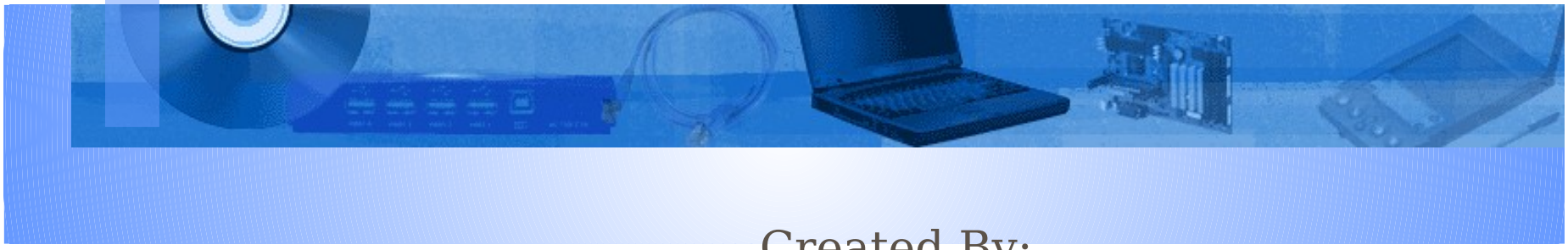
Protecting Your Password



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Why passwords are important

- They are the entry point to IT and other enterprise resources.
- They provide access to the VPN, e-mail servers, and the network.
- Misused or stolen passwords can give intruders access to your personal info.

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Internal password theft is easy

- "Social engineering" is one of the easiest ways for intruders to compromise networks and other organizational systems.
- Others can hear you give a password to someone you trust.
- Someone looking over your shoulder can discover a password.
- Don't keep a copy of your password in a desk drawer, on a monitor, or under a keyboard.

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Protect your password

- Your password is yours alone.
- Don’t share it with anyone, including supervisors, personal assistants, or IT personnel.
- Never write down your password. You wouldn’t write your PIN number for your ATM card, would you?

Do **NOT**:

- Say your password aloud.
- E-mail your password to a co-worker.
- Offer anyone hints about what your password might be.

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Create a strong password

Weak passwords are common because:

- They are easy for users to remember.
- They include personal information about the user.
- They consist of known words that can be found in many hacker password dictionaries.
- They contain number or letter sequences or letter-to-number substitutions, such

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Create a strong password

Strong passwords:

- Are six characters or longer.
- Can’t contain any part of a user’s full name or username.
- Don’t use any term that could easily be guessed by someone who is familiar with you.
- Should not include any personal information, e.g., the name of a spouse or a street address.

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Create a strong password

Strong passwords, cont.:

- Should not contain personal identification numbers, including those on a license plate, your telephone number, birth date, or any part of your Social Security number.
- Contain characters from three of the four classes of characters.

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The four character classes are:

- English uppercase letters (A, B, C).
- English lowercase letters (a, b, c).
- Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3).
- Special characters (!, *, $, or other punctuation symbols).

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Examples of bad passwords

- Sports teams or terms: **LouvlleSlgr**
- Number sequence: ***12345***
- Letter string: **AAAAAA**
- Mixed-case sequence: **ABcdEFgh**
- Company name: **AcmeIT**
- Keyboard sequence: **QwERty** or **ASdFgh**

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Variations on a theme are still weak

Original password:

- BobJones
- TechRepublic
- Tiger
- Login
- Password

Modified password:

- BJones25
- 1TechRepublic1
- Regit
- Log-in
- Always avoid this word or anything similar to it

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Better passwords

Original password:

- LouvlleSlgr
- AcmeIT
- QwERty
- BJones25
- 1TechRepublic1

New password:

- L*6v11E5Lgr
- aC&3i7
- Y7#RQ^e
- 890NEs2%
- T3CH&R3pU8Lic

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Conclusion

- A password is the key to your organization’s resources.
- A strong password can protect your personal account.
- Take strides to make strong passwords that are not obvious to someone familiar with you.
- Remember to change your password on a regular basis.

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